

March 24, 2007

**REFUGEE WORKING GROUP
Salt Lake County Council Chambers
2001 S State, North Building, Room 1100
Salt Lake City, UT
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Introduction

Mayor Peter Corroon welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Representatives Chris Harrod, Lynn Hemingway, and Steve Mascaro were introduced and thanked for their attendance. Mayor Corroon turned the microphone over to the meeting facilitator, Palmer DePaulis.

Palmer DePaulis stated that the needs of the Refugee Community were emphasized during the tragedy at Trolley Square in February.

A list compiled from the previous meetings, outlining the identified gaps in services to refugees, was presented. It is the intent for tonight's meeting to move from identifying the gaps to recommending possible solutions to those gaps for Mayor Corroon and Governor Huntsman. Mr. DePaulis emphasized the need for inclusion of all possible solutions in the final report so the Mayor and Governor have a roadmap to follow in the future with regard to refugee gap solutions.

It was suggested that a liaison to the educational system to be added as a bullet point under Youth Services. Capacity Building is listed in two locations on the document, under Empowerment and Demand for Services. Educational Training for legislators, as outlined under Community Development, was discussed. A recommendation was made to encourage more emphasis on refugee concerns directly to the legislature via an advocate for the refugee community. Under Case Management, it was recommended to add citizenship for refugees and also the need for a response team to support those refugees who, despite best efforts, fall through the cracks of the present system. Following this line of thought, discussion ensued regarding the need for a crisis intervention team to reconnect refugees into services. As we roll up recommendations, this need should be underscored. A suggestion was made regarding the need for a guide or a point of reference for legal issues within the refugee community.

Discussion regarding the lack of accountability on both the state and federal levels ensued. What is accountability? Someone commented Utah is the only state to refuse self-sufficiency to refugee agencies.

The Fundamental Assumptions, i.e. funding, realistic timing, impact, and outcomes were outlined. What solutions will provide the greatest good? What are the outcomes we can expect from resolving an issue? Discussion regarding definition of some of the strongest driving issues, Love, Respect, and Dignity, are necessary before the process of prioritizing begins. Tani Pack Downing explained the need to prioritize the list for the

report to the Mayor and Governor. Capacity Building is a way to empower the refugee population. Core Values are also very important.

A comment was made that the process being used in the Refugee Working Group has been elongated. It was suggested that a different model be looked at that would enable the solutions to be verbalized much more quickly and in a less painful manner. Palmer DePaulis explained the reasoning behind the process that has been used and the need to continue with that process and not change course half-way through the process. There are three meetings left to come up with solutions and prepare the report for the Governor and Mayor. Mr. DePaulis suggested going through each heading and prioritizing the larger headings first so as to not run out of time.

After some discussion, Mr. DePaulis asked for a vote if the group would like to break into smaller breakout groups or continue in the complete assembled group. The vote was to stay in the larger group.

The main headings were outlined and the attendees were asked to vote a maximum of three times for their highest priorities among these headings.

- Core Value Problems - 18
 - Empowerment
 - Capacity Building
- Case Management - 21
- Language Barriers - 11
- Employment and Self Sufficiency - 23
- Community Development and Preservation - 11
- Youth Services – 10

After the vote, the following three areas were designated as being the most critical areas needing attention.

1. Employment and Self Sufficiency – 23
2. Case Management – 15
3. Core Value Problems – 11

Solutions

- Case Management – a discussion of the definition of case management ensued.
 - Coordinated Case Management Process put in place for individual refugees
 - Expansion of Refugee Team @ DWS
 - Improve Training and Cultural Competency

- Develop a strategic approach that has advocacy and coordination of systems that access all of the available resources, not just the refugee specific resources.
- Coordination office for training, advocacy and case management.
- Recognition of those who haven't been recognized for doing case management within the refugee community
- Implement a community-based promotoria for training case workers within the refugee community to work within their own community (300)
 - Paid and unpaid volunteers/mentors
- Defined refugee case management
 - Who does what and when - example
- Develop a unified case management record system that can be used by all service providers
- Recognize and identify need for specialized case management - high risk, health, refugees in US over 5 years.
- Maintain case management with resettlement agencies for up to 5 years.

Representative Harrod was introduced and asked to speak to the assembly. Self Sufficiency and Employment are where he believes the emphasis should be placed. Democracy is not always the cleanest but he feels it is great to be able to discuss these issues in the open. He suggested a reality check that the budget will always be an issue. He is dedicated to making government more efficient. Representative Harrod emphasized that there will be 100,000 new elementary school students coming into the education system within the next ten years. Programs that work will be supported. He commended the assembly and thanked them for inviting him to attend.

Many refugees and immigrants are tax-paying citizens, Utah invests little into the refugee community. Representative Harrod stated that he looks for statistics and facts when making decisions regarding funding from the legislature. How the money invested produces an outcome to get someone off the system would go a long way to obtaining his support. The Refugee Working Group needs to show outcomes.

Palmer DePaulis announced that Tani Pack Downing has been appointed to be General Council for Governor Huntsman. Tani introduced Kristen Cox, DWS' new Executive Director. Mr. DePaulis closed with thanks to those in attendance.

Announcement – United Africans of Utah has organized a party at 3100 South and 1300 West. Everyone is invited for African food, and loud music until 1:00p.m.